



**Approval of October 28, 2020 Virtual Meeting Minutes:** Secretary Kay Hughes advised there were no corrections to the October 28, 2020 minutes emailed to attendees in early December. David Rodney moved the minutes be approved and the motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ron Spieker did not email a report as there had been little activity since the August meeting. He has filed the 1099's and the Registration Statements for VA & MD. Any CD's that are coming due will be rolled over for 1 year only.

**Committee Reports:**

**Regional Management:** Shawn Stringer, Regional Tournament Chair advised that the Reston Regional 2021 has been successfully canceled without penalty but in exchange, added a Regional at that location for 2024, There are ongoing negotiations regarding the contracts for 2023 and 2024 for reduced room blocks and better terms.

Jane Farthing is working with the hotel for the Williamsburg Regional, 2022. The deadline for cancellation has been extended to May and a 40% reduction in the room block as well as food reductions has been requested.

Shawn has been asked to chair an ACBL "working group" to exchange information with members who run Regionals. Currently ACBL dictates how many Regionals Districts can have with a minimum of 4 per district. She noted that David Rodney has helped with accumulating and organizing data on attendance and demographics at Regionals and pre-pandemic, attendance was dropping 10-15%. To obtain hotel space, contracts are signed years in advance and can carry high penalties for cancellation and attendance below expectations. She recommended the board consider the possibility of eliminating a Regional and asked board members to send her an email with your thoughts on length (number of days), quantity and location of Regionals in District 6. David complimented and thanked Shawn for doing a great job juggling and balancing risk and reward on behalf of District 6.

**Finance:** No report

**Grass Roots, NAP, GNT:** Lucy McCoy, District Tournament Coordinator is coordinating the sanctions for the GNT's and getting information on the website. Results need to be posted on the website and she asked how this could be done. This has been an ongoing problem as many board members do not have the technical expertise to update the website.

Barry Fratkin recommended that we hire a webmaster. Although Brenda Egeland is willing to continue to make major changes, she is not able to handle the day-to-day updates. Bill Cole also pointed out the need for a webmaster. Ron Kral will discuss this issue with Brenda Egeland to see if she is interested in taking on more responsibility on a contractual basis. In the short term, Ron will contact Brenda regarding posting of the GNT results.

Bill Cole, Grass Roots Chair advised that the 2019-2020 GNT's were completed last weekend. A BBO director was hired to run multiple tables concurrently. Bill found the use of Zoom in the Open session problematical even though practice sessions were organized. Upcoming dates and information for the 2021 GNT's are on the D6 website. Participation in the most recent event was the same as originally scheduled. The upcoming 0-6000 has the same attendance as in the past. It is too early to determine the response on the later events. There was discussion regarding security, and it was advised that participants have been reminded that unethical behavior is unacceptable and to report any non-compliance. It was also noted that this is implicit when playing in any ACBL game.

**Goodwill:** Chairman Winnie Fratkin was unable to attend the meeting but advised in an email that Goodwill nominations are on hold until we can have face-to-face bridge and can have a reception for the honorees. Winnie will then send a request to the units and recommends units appoint someone for this past year as well as next year.

**Education:** Chairman Ron Kral advised that the Education Foundation had held a preliminary meeting and another meeting has been scheduled which will include election of officers. The Board still needs a couple of appointees although this is not required.

Current education activities in the units were discussed. Several unit Presidents recapped education activities in their units. It would be helpful to send Ron Kral an email recapping these activities. It is suspected there are fewer teaching activities currently but unknown.

**Website:** The issues regarding the website were covered earlier in the meeting.

**Appellate/Judiciary:** No report

**D6 Director Update:** Margot Hennings, District Director recapped many of the activities and her involvement on the Board of Directors. She will send a detailed report to the Directors after the meeting.

1. Margot reported the Appeals and Charges Committee is extremely busy with issues of unethical behavior. She noted that BBO has a program to catch unusual behavior and there is a structure through BBO to report unethical behavior as well as sending to the National Recorder.
2. She advised she had sent the thank you letters and press notices received following the \$30,000 donation from the ACBL Charity Foundation to the ACBL Bulletin magazine and was working with them on an article to be published in the April Bulletin.
3. She announced that Beth Palmer – a long-time and beloved member of D6 and John Sutherland (both recently deceased) had been inducted into the Hall of Fame and are co-recipients of the The von Zedtwitz Award. Honorees are voted in by fellow members in recognition of individuals who have achieved prominence in the game of bridge and have an outstanding tournament record but may not have been in the limelight for a significant period of time.
4. Georgia Heth has been re-elected President of ACBL for 2021, which will be good for continuity during this time. She has contributed a great deal of time and effort to the volunteer position this past year.
5. Margot will continue to chair the Governance Committee and recent discussions have included the pace of the Covid-19 vaccine rollout. This raised questions on future policies for employees, players, etc., in the transition from all online to the partial return to face-to-face bridge.
6. The Chief Financial Officer for ACBL established a 2021 budget based on total online presence, and the online games are going very well. Eighteen full-time directors have been retained and 15 were furloughed. The furloughed directors (their benefits ended December 31, 2020) now have an option to work part-time, if needed at tournaments and special events as well as working with the Ethical Oversight Committee.
7. The districts will soon be receiving a letter with details on the change from Districts to Regions and the election of Regional Directors. Under the new structure, this position will become a Regional Director representing District 5 and District 6 on the ACBL Board. The current director for District 5 is up for re-election and has indicated he will not be running for re-election. Margot plans to run for this position and there is a May 31 deadline to declare an interest in being a candidate for the position.
8. Margot noted the Board of Governors Bylaws (Barbara Doran's report provides additional information on this) are under revision and in the future, meetings will be held in person and electronically. It is hoped that in the future, the new process being proposed will allow the board to be more proactive on issues instead of reactive.
9. Regarding the GNT games, she advised that Greg Coles has been strongly urged to give more direction and provide ACBL support to the districts running GNT games. BBO is working with the ACBL on the capability to run team games, and these will be added to the Regional schedules in the future.
10. There have not been national NAP final competitions at the spring NABC tournaments due to the cancellation of those tournaments in 2020 and 2021. Although ACBL had to send money to the winners of the District competitions in all flights due to regulations, Margot does not recommend the district do the same.

11. The summer, 2022 NABC will not be held at the Marriott Wardman Park location as the Marriott is no longer managing the property and the managing partner has declared bankruptcy for that hotel property. Although not finalized, it is doubtful there will be 2022 NABC held in the Washington-Baltimore area.
12. Margot advised that Craig Lester of Richmond had advised ACBL that BBO should not charge tax on Virginia residents starting Jan. 2021. He included the necessary information that residents of Virginia should not be taxed on services, so this BBO practice has been discontinued, at least for the immediate future. David Rodney will write Craig a thank you for working on this.

**New Business and Other:**

**The Longest Day:** Jane Farthing announced the Longest Day event will again be held and encouraged all to work with their units to prepare. Jane is now a volunteer with the SE Alzheimer's Association for the Longest Day and has met with other volunteers involved in similar types of fundraising. She noted, with pride, the outstanding job ACBL has done running and managing this charity effort.

The status of the Providence NABC and the Austin NABC in 2021 has not been finalized.

The next virtual board meeting will be Wednesday, April 28th from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.

David Rodney thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Hughes  
Secretary  
District 6